

SUMMER JOBS + SUMMER MEALS = SUMMER OPPORTUNITY!



This summer is about OPPORTUNITY for America's youth! The White House and Federal agencies are championing greater youth access to jobs, learning experiences, and food, preparing them for future success! The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) encourage employers to make healthy, free meals available to youth through the USDA Summer Meal Programs.

The USDA Summer Meal Programs provides meals at no cost to youth (18 years and younger) in communities where 50% or more of the children qualify for free and reduced-priced school meals. Meals are prepared and delivered by local sponsoring organizations (e.g., Boys & Girls Clubs, school districts) and USDA reimburses them for the costs.

READ MORE to learn how job and meal sites can work together to increase opportunity for youth this summer!

HOW CAN YOUTH JOB PROGRAMS GET INVOLVED?

- ❖ Inform Youth about Meal Sites – Encourage youth to save their hard-earned money by eating at meal sites nearby in the community. See if there were meal sites in your community last summer by exploring **USDA's Summer Meals Capacity Builder**. Please check it throughout the summertime as 2016 sites are added.

Instructions for using the Summer Meals Capacity Builder are on pg. 3.

- ❖ Serve Free Meals to Youth Employees On-Site – Job Programs employing youth ages 18 and under can serve free meals to them on-site through the USDA Summer Meal Programs. Contact your **State Agency** that operates the program to learn if your Job Program is eligible to be a meal site.

Check out the Summer Champions on pg. 2 to learn about youth job programs in Arizona and Maryland that are already involved with summer meals.

HOW CAN SUMMER MEAL SITES GET INVOLVED?

- ❖ Does your summer meal site need help serving food or planning activities? Consider hiring employees by contacting your nearest **American Job Center**. You can find American Job Centers using the Summer Meals Capacity Builder.

If you are unable to hire employees through your American Job Center, you can use USDA funds for the cost of employees.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PROMOTION OF SUMMER MEALS

- ❖ **Summer Meals Short Videos**: Watch inspiring YouTube videos to learn about the positive impact that summer meals have on youth.
- ❖ Share the **Summer Meal Site Finder**.
- ❖ Text **FOOD** or **COMIDA** (for Spanish) to **877-877** to find a summer meal site near you.
- ❖ Promote the **National Hunger Hotline** at **1-866-3-HUNGRY** or **1-877-8-HAMBRE**. The Hotline provides information about summer meal sites and other food programs.

Please check these information sources throughout the summertime as 2016 sites are added



SUMMER CHAMPIONS



Tucson, Arizona: The [Tucson Unified School District](#) provides breakfast and lunch from late May through June to 120 youth who are enrolled in a 6-week academic program. Students who are enrolled half-time in the academic program spend the other part of the day at a job site gaining work experience. This program has been operating for about 5 years. All students earn wages for their work and stipends for their classroom time. The meals are provided through the USDA Summer Meals Program and job wages/education stipends are provided through Tucson Youth Development.

Baltimore, Maryland: The [Family League of Baltimore](#) utilizes its partnership with [YouthWorks](#) to hire youth to help with summer meals sites throughout the city. In Summer 2016, YouthWorkers will help design and implement a meal and site quality survey, interview kids who are eating the meals about food quality, and then share the results with adults who operate the sites, all in an effort to strengthen the program across the city and provide valuable leadership and skills development to the youth. The Family League of Baltimore also works closely with YouthWorks staff to ensure that all YouthWorkers know how to find their nearest meal site.



HOW TO USE THE SUMMER MEALS CAPACITY BUILDER

- 1) Visit the USDA Summer Meals Capacity Builder at www.fns.usda.gov/capacitybuilder.
- 2) Click on “Layers” at the top of the map and make sure all other layers are unclicked.
- 3) Find your state then zoom into your county/city.
- 4) Click on the “FY16 Census Area Eligibility” layer to see if your community is eligible for free summer meals. Click on the “2015 Open Summer Sites” layer to see meal sites that were open to the public last summer. You will see “2016 Open Summer Sites” closer to summertime.
- 5) If you are a summer meal site: Click on the “American Job Centers 2015” layer to find job centers where you can ask about hiring employees for your site. **NOTE:** you may have to remove the “FY16 Census Area Eligibility” layer to see the red asterisks (*), which are the job centers. If you don’t see a job center near you, zoom out from the map until you see one.
- 6) Feel free to explore the other information layers that you see on the map!

Please visit <http://www.careeronestop.org/StudentsandCareerAdvisors/> to search for employment, educational and training opportunities for youth and www.summerfood.usda.gov for more information on the USDA Summer Meals Program. Thank you!